

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03718 050954Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----054013 051000Z /21

P 050645Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2214  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3718

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, MILI, LE, US, JO  
SUBJECT: REBUILDING THE LEBANESE ARMY: JORDANIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD  
U.S. ASSISTANCE

REF: A) STATE 155131, B) AMMAN 3717 (NOTAL)

1. IT IS OUR JUDGEMENT THAT KING HUSSEIN WILL STRONGLY SUPPORT  
TENTATIVE U.S. PLANS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO LEBANESE ARMY. AS  
DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, KING MAY HAVE PROVIDED LIMITED CLANDESTINE  
MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO NLP OF CHAM'OUN DURING CIVIL WAR, AND IN  
GENERAL KING SHARES WITH SARKIS SIMILAR POINTS OF VIEW CONCERNING  
FACTORS WORKING FOR STABILITY IN LEBANON.

2. JORDAN HAS LIMITED RESOURCES WITH WHICH TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL  
AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON, ALTHOUGH IN PAST IT HAS SHOWN  
WILLINGNESS TO SHARE WHAT IT HAD (MOSTLY THROUGH WHAT WE SUSPECT  
WERE OCCASIONAL SHIPMENTS HANDLED THROUGH GOOD OFFICES OF DANNY  
CHAM'OUN). JORDAN IS CURRENTLY TRAINING LEBANESE DRIVERS FOR  
18 SALADIN AND 18 SARACEN ARMORED CARS WHICH GOJ PLANS TO  
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PRESENT TO GOL. GOJ IS ALSO TRAINING LEBANESE POLICE. WE  
BELIEVE JORDANIANS WOULD PROVIDE SURPLUS EQUIPMENT  
(SHOULD IT BECOME AVAILABLE) BUT NO FINANCIAL AID TO LEBANON.  
(CINC OF LEBANESE ARMY, BRIG. VICTOR KHOURY AND STAFF, FOR  
EXAMPLE, ARE CURRENTLY IN JORDAN ON WELL-PUBLICIZED TOUR.)  
IN THIS RESPECT, IT IS WORTHY OF NOTE THAT JORDANIAN AND  
LEBANESE ARMIES ARE ONLY U.S.-EQUIPPED FORCES AMONG

ARAB STATES BORDERING ISRAEL.

3. WHILE HUSSEIN WOULD FIND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ADOPT  
STANCE VIS-A-VIS EVENTS IN LEBANON WHICH DIFFERED SIGNIFICANTLY  
FROM SYRIAN POSITION, WE THINK HE WOULD BE WILLING  
TO MAKE PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION OF HIS SOLIDARITY WITH SARKIS  
GOVERNMENT EVEN IF IT RAN INTO OPPOSITION FROM MUSLIM AND  
PLO ELEMENTS. HUSSEIN IN PUBLIC SUPPORTS PRESENT LEBANESE  
GOVERNMENT, AND AVOIDS ASSISTING ANY PARTICULAR ALIGNMENT IN  
LEBANON (ALTHOUGH PRIVATELY HE SHOW OBVIOUS PRO-CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES)

HENCE, IF SARKIS GOVERNMENT RAN INTO OPPOSITION WITH CHAM'OUNISTS,  
WE THINK KING WOULD BE INCLINED TO TRY TO PLAY A MEDIATOR ROLE  
ON BEHALF OF SARKIS AND CHAM'OUN.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Subject:** REBUILDING THE LEBANESE ARMY: JORDANIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD U.S. ASSISTANCE  
**TAGS:** MASS, MILI, LE, US, JO, (HUSSEIN I)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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